No TCA Move Likely Till Fall

The decision on whether TCA is to continue its triangle air service or abandon it to Pacific Western Airlines is not likely to be made before the fall.

The Air Transport Board, which has received an application from PWA to take over the Victoria-Vancouver-Seattle services, has called for briefs from all interested parties by March 2, and these are likely to be under study for about two months before the ATB calls hearings.

J. Stuart Keate, who interviewed deputy transport minister J. R. Baldwin in Ottawa on behalf of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce earlier this week, told Chamber directors yesterday that local authorities, associations and even individuals should take the opportunity of expressing their views on the PWA application by writing to the Air Transport Board.

"Public feeling is taken into consideration by the ATB along with such things as equipment and resources of the company making the application," he said.

Mr. Keate added that the remarks made by Victoria M.P. A. deB McPhillips that TCA would not continue the run were not true.

"My impression is that TCA hopes it will continue on this route," he added.

PREPARED BRIEF

Alderman Austin Curtis said the city of Victoria had already prepared a brief to the ATB urging that TCA service should not be discontinued.

Mr. Curtis said the TCA link was vital to every merchant and businessman in Victoria.

"With TCA we enjoy air cargo and express through rates everywhere east of Vancouver," he said. "If another line operated between Victoria and Vancouver we would probably be faced with local rates as well."

Mr. Curtis said he was alarmed that Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi had recently expressed the view that he could see nothing wrong with the PWA application and that he did not know what Victoria was fussing about.

Mr. Keate and other directors of the chamber expressed doubts whether PWA had the equipment to carry the peak loads.

In five days during the ferry strike last summer, TCA had carried 11,500 passengers between Victoria and Vancouver. "This was as many as PWA carried in the whole year" said Mr. Keate.

The Chamber directors approved sending a brief to the ATB opposing any change of franchise.

'Work' For Ferry

Community leaders still face a lot of hard work if they expect to see the CPR winter ferry service maintained to Vancouver next winter, newspaper publisher J. Stuart Keate told Victoria Chamber of Commerce directors yesterday.

He said N. R. Crump, CPR president, had promised only that he would take another look at the question of winter ferry service in September.

Mr. Keate went to Ottawa and Montreal earlier this week as a spokesman for the Victoria municipalities and the Chamber when it appeared Victoria would be left without a direct ferry connection with Vancouver during the winter.

MET HALF-WAY

Mr. Crump had met Victoria half-way by keeping a one round-trip-a-day schedule to Vancouver until the start of expanded summer service and "we should thank him for this," said Mr. Keate.

"But we should also reciprocate by doing all we can to stimulate trade on this service," he added.

The CPR president assured him, Mr. Keate said, that there was no talk of discontinuing the summer service, nor of closing the Empress Hotel during the winter.

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